



BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Village of Sag Harbor
55 Main St., PO Box 660
Sag Harbor, N.Y. 11963
631-725-2804
631-725-4852 fax
firemarshal@sagharborNY.gov

Memo

To: Applicants
From: Thomas Preiato, Building Inspector
CC:
Date: 2015-11-04
Re: Low voltage household fire alarm systems

The 2007 New York State Residential Code requires that smoke alarms be installed inside every bedroom, outside every bedroom and on every level of the residence.

The Residential Code defines a single station smoke alarm as:

“An assembly incorporating the detector, control equipment and alarm sounding device in one unit that is operated from a power supply either in the unit or obtained at the point of installation”

The Residential code does not recognize a smoke detector (a device that detects visible or invisible particles of combustion). A smoke detector does not include the control equipment (eg the fire alarm control panel) and does not include an alarm sounding device.

A low voltage household fire alarm system may be approved under R103.3, Alternate materials, design and methods of construction and equipment:

“This code is not intended to prevent the use of any material or to prohibit any design or method of construction not specifically prescribed by this code, provided that any such alternative has been approved by the code enforcement official or the State Fire Prevention and Building Code Council.”

The Village of Sag Harbor will accept low voltage fire alarms as an approved alternative to smoke alarms, provided they meet the requirements of NFPA 72 for Household Fire Alarm Systems.

To wit:

1. Applicant must demonstrate via battery calculations that the household fire alarm is capable of operating for at least 24 hours in the normal condition followed by 4 minutes of alarm.
2. Fire warning equipment shall produce the emergency evacuation signal described in ANSI S3.41 (Temporal 3).
3. Audible fire alarm signals shall produce a sound level 15dB above ambient SPL or 75dBA, whichever is greater. All measurements are taken in the bedroom at the pillow level with the doors closed using the A-weighted scale and fast time weighting.